

HONORING BOB CURRAN UPON HIS  
RETIREMENT**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bob Curran, Columnist for the Buffalo News on the occasion of his retirement.

Bob Curran was born in Boston to Irish immigrants. World War II interrupted his football career at Cornell University. Bob was a Sergeant with the 95th Infantry Division and fought in France, Belgium and into Germany. Gen. George Patton personally gave him the Silver Star. Bob also received 2 Purple Hearts, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge. His wounds kept him from playing football when he returned to Cornell.

Bob worked for Fawcett Publications in New York, becoming editor of Cavalier before resigning in 1961. He was director of college football's Gotham Bowl, head of sports publicity for NBC and syndicated columnist before moving to Buffalo in 1967.

Bob has been a columnist for the Buffalo News for 32 years. His columns are famous for telling readers how to "win friends and influence him," asking trivia questions and telling backward jokes.

What has set Bob apart from other columnists has been his strong advocacy on behalf of veterans. He wrote about real heroes, the veterans in Western New York. As Chairman of the House Veterans' Benefits Subcommittee, I have greatly benefited from his insight and advice on veterans' issues.

As everyone in Western New York is aware, Bob has been a vocal advocate of the designation of December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, as a national holiday. It was through Bob's passion, encouragement and support that he generated in the veteran's community, that persuaded me to submit legislation in the House of Representatives, H.R. 965, to designate Pearl Harbor Day as a federal holiday in the same manner as November 11, Veterans Day.

I and the many members of the Western New York veteran's community look forward to Bob's continued support for veteran issues.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the Curran family, the Buffalo News, our veterans and their families as well as the entire Western New York community in tribute to Mr. Bob Curran.

With retirement comes many new opportunities. May Bob meet each new opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor in which he demonstrated throughout his brilliant career, and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in his past.

Thank you, Bob, for your advocacy, tireless effort and personal commitment to our community, and for your friendship.

IN HONOR OF SHANNON MELENDI

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with my colleagues the tragic cir-

cumstances of a constituent, Shannon Melendi, a 19 year-old sophomore at Emory University in Atlanta.

Almost 5 years ago to the day, on March 26, 1994, Shannon disappeared on a Saturday afternoon from the Softball Country Club where she worked as a scorekeeper, during games.

Shannon took a work break from which she never returned and no one has seen her since that day.

The prime suspect, a part-time umpire at the park, was previously convicted of kidnapping and taking indecent liberties with a child and served only 2 years of a 4-year prison sentence.

This was his third sexual offense.

Perhaps if this man had served his full prison sentence, Shannon would not have disappeared.

Or, perhaps if he had received a harsher sentence, due to the fact that it was his third sexual offense and committed against a child, Shannon would still be here today.

Mr. Speaker, when sexual crimes are committed, we need to ensure that these criminals spend many years incarcerated so that women and children are safe from sexual predators who prey upon them.

I urge my colleagues to work together to enact legislation that will keep people who have committed sexual crimes off our streets so that what happened to Shannon will never have to happen again.

Shannon's father, Luis, summed it up the best when he said, "What happened to us cannot be changed, but because of what happened to us, changes can be made."

## TRIBUTE TO EAGLEVILLE, TN

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of Eagleville, TN. Historically, the first known settlers arrived in the Eagleville area in 1790. There are indications that Native Americans also camped near the local springs. The town derives its name from a legend about an unusually large eagle that was killed near the village. This name was officially adopted on August 16, 1836. Eagleville received its charter of incorporation on March 31, 1949.

Today, the tradition of this historic city continues to grow with a nationally recognized school, the community churches and its businesses. The city government consists of an elected mayor, Nolan S. Barham, Sr., and six elected council members. Eagleville's population has steadily grown through the years and today stands at 501 people.

On Saturday, March 27, the town of Eagleville will celebrate their 50th anniversary. They will be holding a community dinner from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Some members of the community, who were present for the original incorporation ceremony, will be recognized during this event. Please join me in congratulating Eagleville for reaching this milestone.

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA—1999  
ARMY COMMUNITIES OF EXCEL-  
LENCE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S  
AWARD**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fort Benning, GA, the "Home of the Infantry" and the Army's premier installation, for being recognized with the 1999 Army Communities of Excellence Commander-in-Chief's Award.

This is the fourth Commander in Chief's Award Fort Benning has received in the last five years. The annual award recognizes the best Army installation in the world. Fort Benning has also been awarded, for the seventh consecutive year, the Chief of Staff, Army Award which recognizes the best Army installation in the continental United States.

The ability and professionalism of the tens of thousands of soldiers and nearly 7,000 civilians who pass through Fort Benning's gate each and every year are responsible for this recognition. The awards are also indicative of the successful partnership that has been developed over the years between Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama.

Major General Ernst, Commanding General, and his able staff continue to reinforce Fort Benning's longstanding commitment to military quality, focusing on the watchwords "first in training, first in readiness, and first in quality of life." As the home of the infantry, Fort Benning's mission is to produce the world's finest combat-ready infantry and to continue to be the Army's premier installation and home for soldiers, families, civilian employees, and military retirees. This mission is achieved with distinction on a daily basis by Fort Benning soldiers who constitute a cornerstone of our Nation's Armed Forces.

While the infantry remains the central focus of activity at Fort Benning, other specialized units have been added over the years, enhancing the ability of the installation to accomplish its mission. Fort Benning houses, among others, the 11th and 29th Infantry Regiments, the 36th Engineer Group, the Ranger Training Brigade and the 75th Ranger Regiment, the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, the Drill Sergeant School, the Henry Caro Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, and the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Each of these units work tirelessly to defend our national interests around the world and to serve our communities at home.

To the military and civilian personnel of Fort Benning, I offer my sincere thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

MARCH IS NATIONAL SOCIAL  
WORK MONTH**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind my colleagues as we adjourn for the district work period that March is "Social Work